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THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

match program



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ROUND 3
SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB
VS
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1998



PARTHENON MARBLE



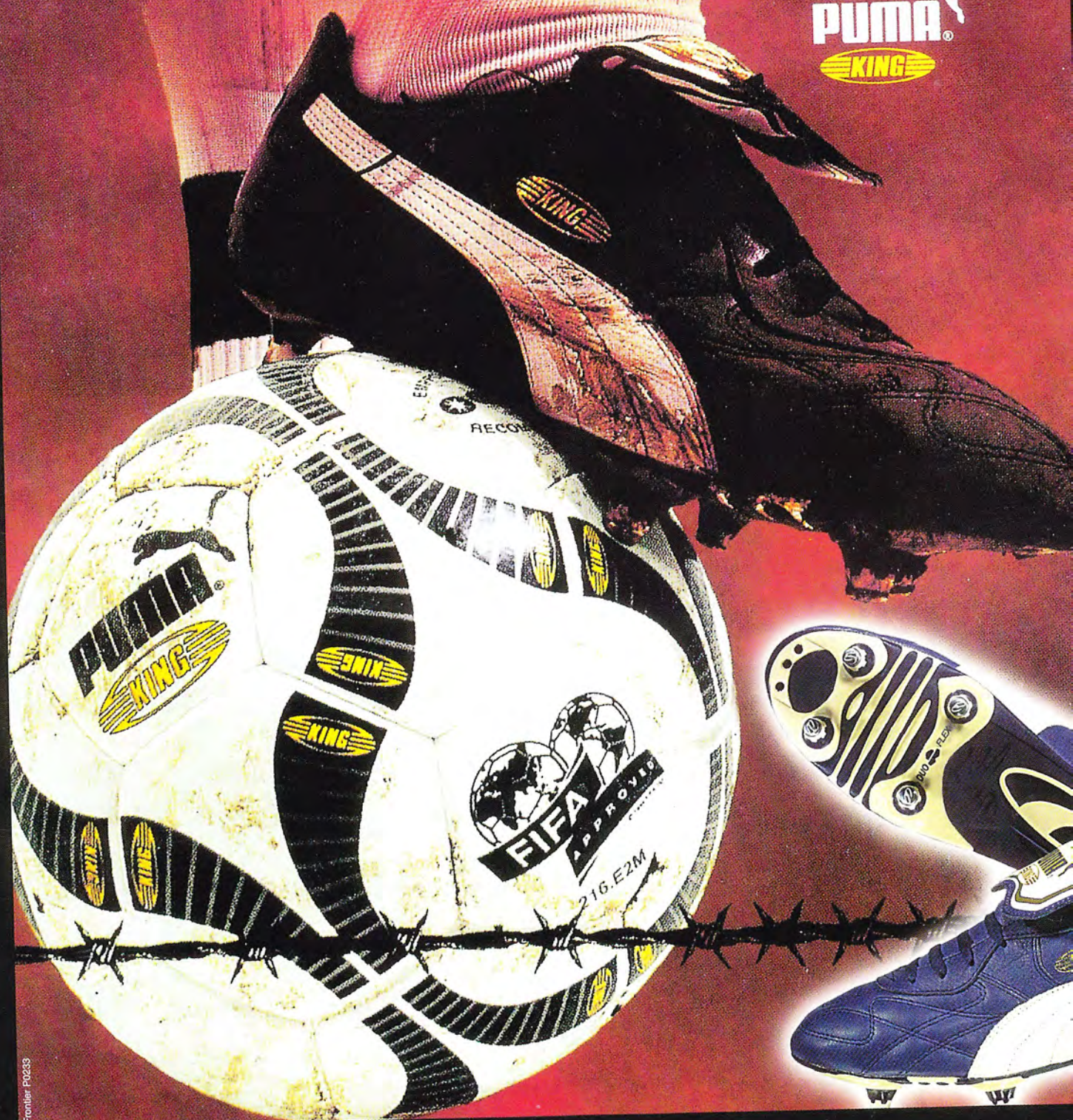
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Round 3 of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup Competition.

Tonight, we welcome Newcastle Breakers to the Bob Jane Stadium, a game which always produces some fine competitive football.

In the last few weeks, the Ericsson Cup has produced some record crowds. Northern Spirit attracted 18,000 in their opening game, smashing the previous NSL record. Perth continues to draw crowds such as last week's 17,500 attendance and even Sydney Olympic attracted 9,500 people. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the South Melbourne Soccer Club is no longer the crowd king. Sad as it may be, it is now time for some action by all of us if we want to re-claim that title. I say enough is enough and it is time we re-claim what is rightfully ours. To do so we need you, the supporter, to play your role.

I encourage you all to play your role by bringing new people to the Bob Jane Stadium. We all have friends and relatives that do not come to the games. We must bring them from now on. We must all play a part in building our crowds up to 10,000 and 15,000 every week.

The most disheartening moment for me, as President, was to come to the Bob Jane Stadium for Round 1 of the 1998/99 Ericsson Cup season to unveil the Championship flag in front of only 6000 people. I urge you all to take ownership and let's work together to re-claim our title as the 'crowd kings'.

The South Melbourne Soccer Club has begun an aggressive campaign in the schools issuing thousands of under 16 passes for each home game, along with an organised promotional plan to increase our crowds. Your support will be paramount by insisting on all your friends coming to the Bob Jane Stadium.

I would like to see 15,000 people here for the UTS Olympic game on Sunday, 8 November 1998. Let's work together.

George Vasilopoulos
President



SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

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Paul Trimboli

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COACH'S REPORT

Although the start to our season hasn't been as impressive like some other clubs, I must say, I am still pleased with our progress.

I was always concerned about the first few games because being Champions, we were always going to play teams who would be up for the challenge. As expected, Gippsland Falcons and Adelaide Sharks played out of their skins.

Today will not be any different because Newcastle got off to a good start under new coach Lee Sterrey. I am sure that they will be looking to build on that by knocking off the Champions.

However, I am happy with the way the team have tackled the task and whilst we haven't been in brilliant form we have been efficient. I am also delighted with the way Jim Tsekini has settled in and I am sure we are not too far away from seeing him making an impact.

Our goal over the next few weeks is to keep improving the quality of our play while picking up as many points as possible.

Your support was appreciated in the first home game but we still need you to convince as many of your friends to come to the games to create that 'special' Bob Jane Stadium atmosphere. It's not too late to sign up as a member and help us in our quest to repeat success.



EARLY STAGES BUT POINTS CAN'T BE LOST

PRE-SEASON pundits may have got it right when they suggested this was the year Perth Glory would make its presence felt come finals time.

The Western Australians join Carlton and Sydney Olympic as the only sides in the land to have won both their opening games.

Perth have yet to concede a goal (after Round 2) but Carlton is making headlines and winning games for different reasons. Eddie Krncevic's side has scored four goals in each of its two games to date - a statistic that so far rubbishes the theory that Carlton is lacking in its front line.

But how much can you read into the first two games of the season and who would be prepared to write off Zoran Matic's Adelaide City despite the Zebras' disastrous start to the season?

And what is there to stop Northern Spirit from overcoming a red-card riddled start to its campaign and fulfil the promise its glittering squad is entitled to show?

More red has been shown at Spirit games this season than you would be likely to see at one of Spain's finest bull-fighting contests.

That set up an intriguing match at Carlton this afternoon when the Blues met the Spirit. The Spirit, with no goals to their account as yet, may have asked Krncevic and his front-men for some advice.

As for intriguing encounters, Melbourne Knights' trip to Adelaide City this afternoon sees two of the giants of the 1990s, who are currently re-building, meet in a game where a draw won't be sufficient for either.

Sydney Olympic tries for three in a row this afternoon when it travels to number one enemy Sydney United. Could Olympic, so often the frustration of the competition, make 1998/99 its season?

South Melbourne and Newcastle sit nicely and yet to be beaten but that could change for one of the two today. There are many more rolls of the dice yet, but who can afford to keep dropping points, even if it is just Round 3?



GOING FOR GOALS

South Melbourne's fleet-footed international Vaughan Coveny has begun the new season with a brace of goals and, as he tells Nicholas Tzaferis, he is in no mood to stop scoring.

LIKE any striker, there have been times in Vaughan Coveny's career when he would feel he couldn't hit the side of a barn door from a mere five yards. The sort of dry spell that has coaches pulling their hair and strikers wondering what else can go wrong. Coveny has had his fair deal of goal famines but if the start to this campaign is anything to go by, Coveny is in for a feast of goals.

You couldn't exactly label it a flurry just yet, but the exciting Kiwi has scored in each of South Melbourne's opening two games and is out to make sure he keeps beating the opposing shot-stoppers.

"In the first game I came off the bench but I've been trying to get some more game time so it's important for me to make an impact," Coveny says.

"With the quality at the club, it's important that with the opportunities you get, you make an impact."

Coveny is big on impact. Indeed, that is the type of player he is. He won't be exceptional for 90 minutes but, for moments, he can be special and create impact in his own way.

Coveny's impact has rarely been better showcased than in South's last two encounters. In the opening game of the season against Gippsland, his winning goal was a gem.

Not only did it give South Melbourne three points on the day, it showcased his acceleration - the sort of pace that wouldn't be out of place down the Flemington straight during carnival time. Coveny hopelessly outpaced Gippsland's Jeff Hopkins to reach a loose ball before angling it past goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjovic for a goal worth its weight in gold.

Last week, a header late in the first half, helped his side secure a point against Manfred Schaefer's Adelaide Sharks. Importantly, for the 26-year-old, he was in the starting 11 and played the entire 90 minutes.

Coveny is riding high on confidence and attributes his sharp start to the season to the confidence gained by New Zealand's triumph in the Oceania division of the Confederations Cup.

Coveny got on the scoresheet in that tournament and helped the enzedders to a shock victory over Australia in the final.

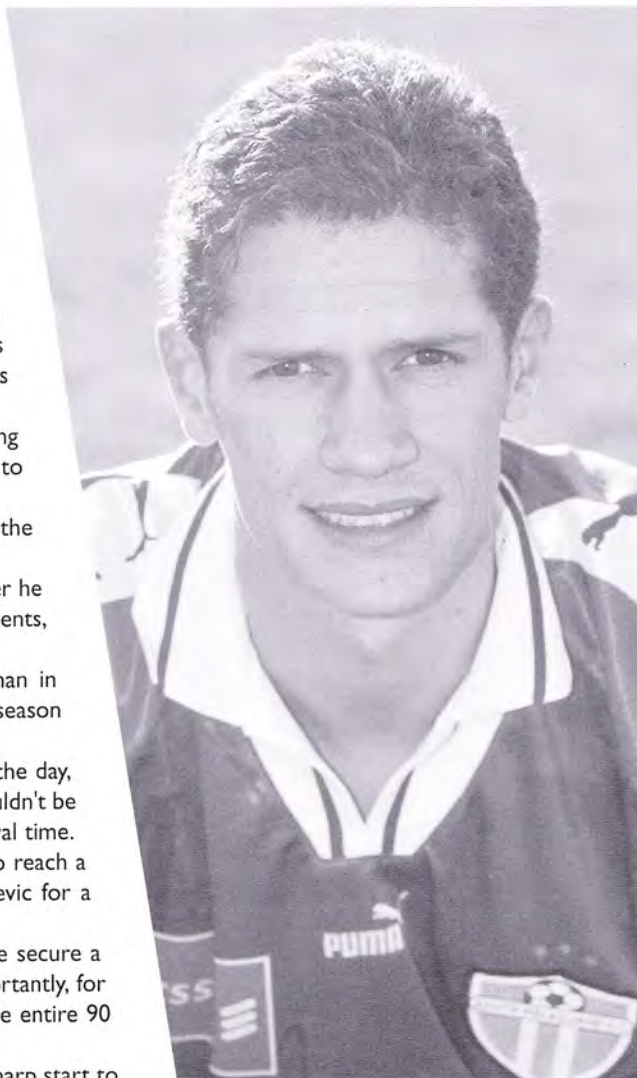
"That was a real confidence builder. Scoring a few goals in that tournament did a lot for my confidence," Coveny says.

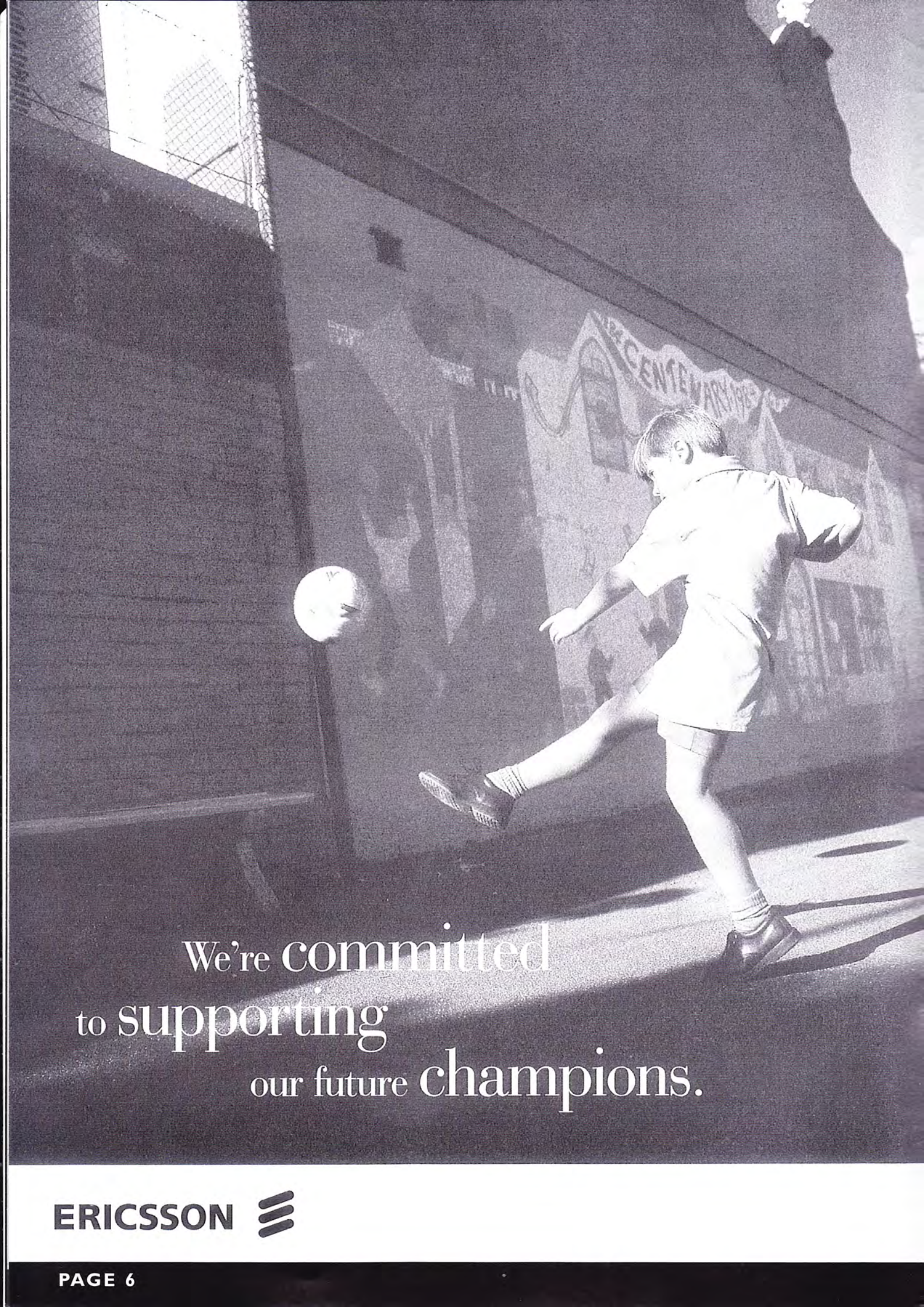
"When your confidence is up, you tend to try and do more different things than when your confidence is low. You take shots, take risks and score goals."

Coveny's confidence is likely to get a further boost with a likely start in today's game against Newcastle.

The Breakers have traditionally been accommodating to South Melbourne's attack - a fact that won't be lost on Coveny as he embarks on another goal today.

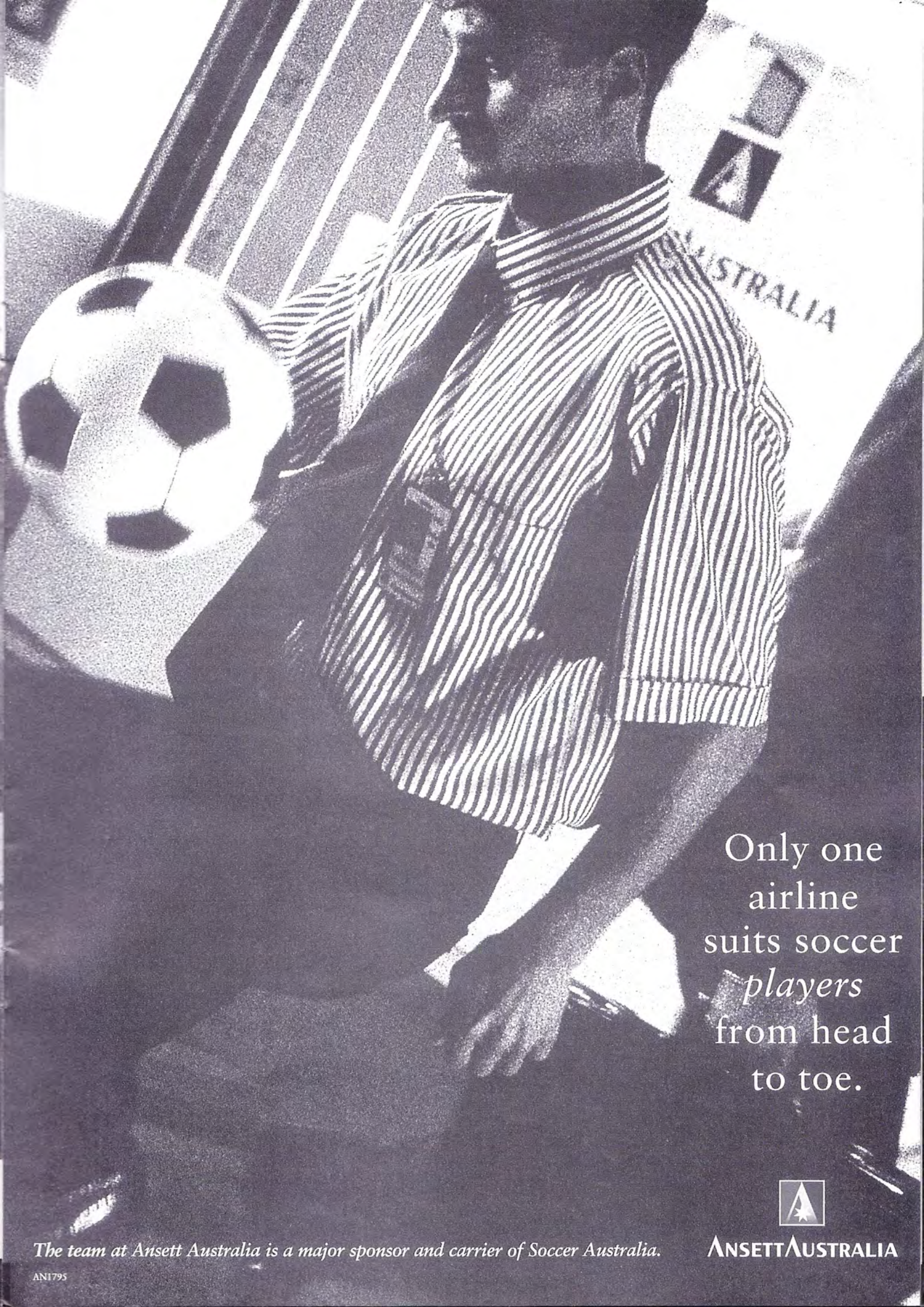
Three from three - that's something that would sit nicely with Coveny at this early stage of the season.





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RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME	RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
1	11 Oct	Sun	Gippsland Falcons	H	5PM	16	23 Jan	Sat	Gippsland Falcons	A	7PM
2	18 Oct	Sun	Adelaide Sharks	A	8PM	17	26 Jan	Tue	Adelaide Sharks	H	6PM
3	25 Oct	Sun	Newcastle Breakers	H	6PM	18	31 Jan	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	A	6.30PM
4	31 Oct	Sat	Marconi Fairfield	A	7PM	19	7 Feb	Sun	Melbourne Knights	H	6PM
5	8 Nov	Sun	Sydney Olympic	H	6PM	20	12 Feb	Fri	Newcastle Breakers	A	8PM
6	15 Nov	Sun	Perth Glory	A	5PM	21	21 Feb	Sun	Marconi Fairfield	H	6PM
7	22 Nov	Sun	Carlton	H	5PM	22	28 Feb	Sun	Sydney Olympic	A	6PM
8	29 Nov	Sun	Melbourne Knights	A	3PM	23	7 Mar	Sun	GRAND PRIX WEEKEND		
9	6 Dec	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	H	6PM	24	14 Mar	Sun	Carlton	A	5PM
10	13 Dec	Sun	Adelaide City	A	7PM	25	21 Mar	Sun	Adelaide City	H	6PM
11	20 Dec	Sun	Northern Spirit	H	6PM	26	26 Mar	Fri	Northern Spirit	A	7.30PM
12	27 Dec	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	A	7PM	27	4 Apr	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	H	6PM
13	3 Jan	Sun	Sydney United	H	6PM	28	11 Apr	Sun	Sydney United	A	5PM
14	11 Jan	Mon	Canberra Cosmos	A	7PM	29	18 Apr	Sun	Canberra Cosmos	H	6PM
23	TBA		Perth Glory	TBA		30	25 Apr	Sun	BYE	-	-
15	17 Jan	Sun	BYE	-	-						

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- 1 Michael PETKOVIC (GLK)
- 2 Steve IOSIFIDIS (DEF)
- 3 Fausto DE AMICIS (DEF)
- 4 Nick ORLIC (DEF)
- 5 Con BLATSIS (DEF)
- 6 David CLARKSON (MID)
- 7 Steve PANOPOULOS (MID)
- 8 Vaughan COVENY (MID)
- 9 Paul TRIMBOLI (STK)
- 10 Michael CURCIJA (STK)
- 11 John ANASTASIADIS (STK)
- 12 Tansel BASER (DEF)
- 13 Adrian CUZZUPE (MID)
- 14 Jason POLAK (MID)
- 15 Goran LOZANOVSKI (MID)
- 16 George GOUTZIOULIS (MID)
- 17 Jim TSEKINIS (STK)
- 18 Robert LIPAROTI (DEF)
- 20 Chris Jones (GLK)
- 22 Mustafa MUSTAFA (STK)

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GOALS RECORD: Paul Trimboli (89)
RECORD VICTORY: 7-0 v Newcastle Rosebud (1984)
RECORD DEFEAT: 7-0 v Marconi (1992/93)

GOALS

- 1 Bob CATLIN
- 2 Shane PRYCE
- 3 Andy ROBERTS
- 4 Adam SANDERSON
- 5 Todd McMANUS
- 6 Glenn SPROD
- 7 Peter RITCHIE
- 8 Mark WILSON
- 9 Chris TANCHESKI
- 10 John BUONAVOGLIA
- 11 Andrew BORGHETTO
- 12 Fouad UMLIL
- 13 Brad WIECZOREK
- 14 Greg OWENS
- 16 Joshua STICK
- 17 Robert SHANNON
- 18 Thomas HAYTHORTHWAITE
- 19 Sang CHUL-YOON
- 20 Brad SWANCOTT

YEARS IN ERICSSON CUP: 7 HONOURS:

Cup Runners up 1995/1996
GAMES RECORD: Ralph Maier (106)
GOALS RECORD: Warren Spink (29)
RECORD VICTORY: 7-1 v North NSW Lions (Cup)
RECORD DEFEAT: 6-0 v Melb Knights (league)

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Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

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THE VISITORS

International players aim to put Breakers on the map

THERE is a real international flavour at Newcastle this season.

Lee Sterrey's new look side boasts a Korean - Sang Chul-Yoon - and the Moroccan Fouad Umlil to complement a largely locally-based squad.

Yoon, 33, has scored nine goals in 13 internationals for South Korea while Umlil was signed last season after sprouting in the local Newcastle league.

Yoon was at Marconi last season along with the more successful Pan Keum-Kim but failed to make the grade in Zoran Matic's side.

Yoon and Umlil are two of the players Sterrey will be relying on as Newcastle takes on arguably its biggest task of the season this evening against the reigning champs.

Sterrey admits it's a big task but Newcastle won't be timid about it.

"We're coming down to get points. We're not coming down to defend," Sterrey says.

"Some of Newcastle's problems in the past have probably been that the players don't believe in themselves. We're trying to change that."

Sterrey will be without striker Andrew Borghetto who will be missing for four months with a broken leg, while exciting 17-year-old Chris Tancheski tore a hamstring in last week's win over Canberra and hasn't made the trip to Melbourne.

Sterrey says a player to watch is Greg Owens, a 17-year-old right-sided midfielder, while striker John Buonavoglia has finally been given a chance in the national league after proving to be one of the hottest talents in the NSW Super League.

NICHOLAS TZAFERIS



1998-99 SENIOR SQUAD TEAM PROFILES



PAUL TRIMBOLI
Position: Striker
Born: 25.2.69
Height: 173cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: 318
Last Club: Sunshine GC
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Trimmers
Shirt Number: 9



FAUSTO DE AMICIS
Position: Defender
Born: 26.06.68
Height: 170cm
Weight: 65kg
NSL games: 171
Last Club: Melbourne Knights
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 3



DAVID CLARKSON
Position: Midfielder
Born: 01.02.68
Height: 176cm
Weight: 70kg
NSL games: 138
Last Club: Happy Valley (HK)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Clarky
Shirt Number: 6



STEVE PANOPOULOS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 23.6.75
Height: 169cm
Weight: 68kg
NSL games: 108
Last Club: (Oakleigh) VIS
Internationals: -
Nickname: Pana
Shirt Number: 7



MICHAEL CURCIJA
Position: Striker
Born: 27.06.77
Height: 183cm
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 62
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Cij
Shirt Number: 10



TANSEL BASER
Position: Defender
Born: 17.04.78
Height: 190cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 50
Last Club: Broadmeadows
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 12



ROBERT LIPAROTI
Position: Defender
Born: 2.04.78
Height: 193cm
Weight: 89kg
NSL games: 8
Last Club: Bulleen
Internationals: -
Nickname: Lipa
Shirt Number: 18



CON BLATSIS
Position: Defender
Born: 06.07.77
Height: 192cm
Weight: 86kg
NSL games: 65
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Blats
Shirt Number: 5



MUSTAFA MUSTAFA
Position: Striker
Born: 22.08.79
Height: 178cm
Weight: 69kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: VIS (Melton Reds)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Mus
Shirt Number: 22



GORAN LOZANOVSKI
Position: Midfielder
Born: 11.01.74
Height: 180cm
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 143
Last Club: Collingwood
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Loza
Shirt Number: 15



ADRIAN CUZZUPE
Position: Midfielder
Born: 06.08.80
Height: 178cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: Green Gully
Internationals: -
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 13



CHRIS JONES
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 10.07.75
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 1
Last Club: Karingal United
Internationals: -
Nickname: Jonesy
Shirt Number: 20



NICK ORLIC
Position: Defender
Born: 06.08.70
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 90kg
NSL game: 121
Last Club: UTS Olympic
Internationals: -
Nickname: Niko
Shirt Number: 4



VAUGHAN COVENY
Position: Striker
Born: 13.12.71
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 84kg
NSL games: 149
Last Club: Wollongong
Internationals: New Zealand
Nickname: Kiwi
Shirt Number: 8



GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 18.01.78
Height: 180cm
Weight: 74kg
NSL game: 18
Last Club: Bentleigh Greens
Internationals: -
Nickname: Shaggy
Shirt Number: 16

ANGE POSTECOGLOU
Manager/Coach



JIM TSEKINIS
Position: Striker
Born: 08.05.75
Height: 177cm
Weight: 77kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: Adelaide Sharks
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 17



MICHAEL PETKOVIC
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 16.07.76
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 74
Last Club: Perth Kangaroos
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Petka
Shirt Number: 1



STEVE IOSIFIDIS
Position: Defender
Born: 28.12.73
Height: 184cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 60
Last Club: Heidelberg UTD
Internationals: -
Nickname: Yosa
Shirt Number: 2



CARL HALFORD
Assistant Coach



JOHN ANASTASIADIS
Position: Striker
Born: 13.08.68
Height: 179cm
Weight: 78kg
NSL games: 49
Last Club: PAOK (Greece)
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 11



JASON POLAK
Position: Midfielder
Born: 09.01.68
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 188
Last Club: Brisbane
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Jay
Shirt Number: 14



LEANDRO ZARKO
Assistant Coach

COACHING STAFF 1998/99



THE LONG ROAD BACK

After watching South Melbourne's entire championship campaign from the outer last season, classy midfielder Jason Polak just can't wait for his return to the action. He speaks to **Nicholas Tzaferis**



ELITE sportsmen will tell you there is little worse than watching your side waltz away with the competition's major prize while you sit injured in the terraces.

Imagine the emotions running through Jason Polak when South clinched its third championship on a May Saturday night earlier this year. Sure, he was happy for his teammates and the club, and soaked up the euphoria surrounding the triumph. But inside there must have been a feeling of frustration at missing out on a real role in one of the club's most monumental achievements.

A knee reconstruction saw Polak, who joined South Melbourne when the club was still at Middle Park, miss out on the historic season and watch it like your average fan on the outer. The reconstruction was called for after a seemingly minor incident in a pre-season clash with Carlton SC.

"The hardest thing was watching the fixtures week in, week out. That was a lot harder than the finals because in the finals you get caught up in the atmosphere as a supporter would," Polak says.

"As much as I enjoyed watching the team win the championship last year, there's one thing missing in my career and that is to play in a championship side in Australia."

That has been the motivation for the return of Polak who didn't kick a ball for six months in his first stages of rehabilitation. Rather, he was confined to the

exercise bike, pool and, later, slow jogging.

"The sessions are very lonely - you're on your own. It's a long, monotonous road where you don't think of playing, just the next step in your rehabilitation," Polak says.

Polak completed a full pre-season in preparation for this season and has played in two games for South's youth side.

"You've got to go through your different stages of rehabilitation such as your first game and your first tackle. I'm over that now and my knee feels fine," Polak says.

He doesn't want to guess when he might get his chance to play.

"I'm enjoying playing again. When Ange (Postecoglou) thinks I'm ready, I'd love to be on the park," Polak says.

"I've put my head down and I'm working away at getting back into the side."

ERICSSON CUP RESULTS & FIXTURES

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
CARLTON SC	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
PERTH GLORY	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
ADELAIDE SHARKS	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
NEWCASTLE	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Marconi	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Brisbane	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Wollongong	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Sydney United	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Gippsland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Melb Knights	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Canberra Cosmos	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Northern Spirit	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Adelaide City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

ROUND 2 RESULTS

Adelaide Sharks 1 (Gibson) SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Coveny)
 Sydney Olympic 2 (Cardozo, own goal) Brisbane Strikers 1 (Harris)
 Perth Glory 2 (Strudwick, Markovski) Northern Spirit 0
 Carlton SC 4 (Lapsansky, Moreira, Tricarico 2) Adelaide City 1 (Mori)
 Melbourne Knights 1 (Kelic) Wollongong Wolves 2 (Surjan pen, Dimoski)
 Marconi Fairfield 2 (Kim pen, Maloney) Sydney United 0
 Newcastle Breakers 2 (Wieczorek, Yoon) Canberra Cosmos 1 (Buljan pen)

ROUND 3 FIXTURES

Saturday October 24 - Brisbane Strikers v Perth Glory
 Sunday October 25 - Carlton v Northern Spirit
 Canberra Cosmos v Marconi Fairfield
 Sydney United v Sydney Olympic
 Adelaide City v Melbourne Knights
 SOUTH MELBOURNE v Newcastle Breakers
 Gippsland Falcons v Adelaide Sharks
 Wollongong Wolves BYE

ROUND FOUR

Friday October 31
 Newcastle Breakers v Gippsland Falcons
 Northern Spirit v Melbourne Knights
 Saturday November 1
 Marconi Fairfield v SOUTH MELBOURNE
 Brisbane Strikers v Carlton SC
 Sunday November 2
 Sydney Olympic v Canberra Cosmos
 Perth Glory v Sydney United
 Wollongong Wolves v Adelaide City
 Adelaide Sharks BYE



NEXT HOME GAME
vs Sydney Olympic
Sunday November 8 - 6pm
Round 5

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